

# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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Serving Towson, Loch Raven Village, Carney, Oak Crest Village, Fullerton, Perry Hall, and Kingsville

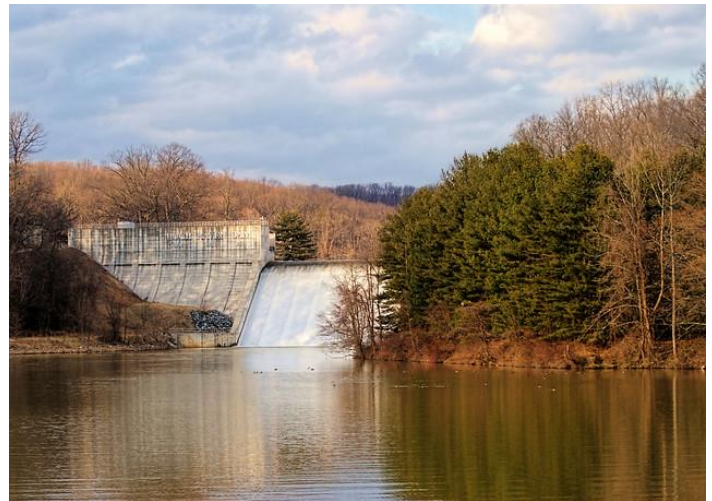
## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: IS IT TIME FOR A REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY?**

Over the past month, there have been vivid reminders of the challenges facing our water system—first, the Ransomware attack that prevented households from receiving their bills, and then [a series of water main breaks along major corridors like York Road](#).

It's a confusing system—Baltimore City owns the reservoirs and is responsible for the water service in Baltimore County. The county pays for improvements, such as the new main on Joppa Road and [the upcoming project on Forge Road](#).

Baltimore City Mayor Young and County Executive Olszewski recently announced [plans to review the performance of the water system](#). I have to wonder, however, if it's time for a regional water authority. A regional authority would likely be more accountable to all those it represents, across both Baltimore City and County. Right now, it's difficult for Baltimore County households to find out the status of repairs. A water authority board, with representatives from both

jurisdictions, could demand greater transparency. The rate-setting process could also be greatly improved.



A water authority would be a massive undertaking, and it could only be done by the Maryland General Assembly. Still, this is a conversation worth having as we aim for a modern infrastructure network.

## **MARKS TO HOLD NEIGHBORS MEETING AT INDIAN ROCK PARK**

Councilman Marks will hold a community meeting on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Indian Rock Park to discuss improvements to the wooded area west of Perry Hall High School. Bring your lawn chair and meet near the beginning of the trail at Ebenezer Road. In the event of bad weather, the meeting will be postponed until August. The park has persistent issues with trash that will be addressed at this meeting.



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL OVERCROWDING

School overcrowding is a difficult and complex problem. Development certainly contributes—which is why Councilman Marks downzoned a historic amount of acreage to lighten development—but demographic change also matters. In areas such as Loch Raven Village and Carney, where there is little development, overcrowding has occurred as younger families replace older homeowners.

Recent budgets have included funding to expand capacity at places such as Hampton and Stoneleigh Elementary Schools.

### Towson and Loch Raven Village

Councilman Marks continues to support the construction of a new Towson High School, one that reflects the character of the surrounding community, is pushing for planning money as early as possible. The Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposed by the County Executive only included full planning money for Lansdowne High School in southwestern Baltimore County.

The Baltimore County Board of Education has initiated a boundary study to reduce overcrowding at Pleasant Plains Elementary School. The boundary study committee will be identified this summer and convene in September 2019. Between September and December 2019, the group will meet seven times, including hosting a public information meeting in October to share the group's work, talk with community members, and gather information. In February and March 2020, the Board of Education will consider and take action on the committee's recommendation, including holding a public hearing.

To learn more about the boundary study committee, please contact your neighborhood elementary school no later than August 5, 2019. Learn more at <https://www.bcps.org/construction/PleasantPlainsES>.

### Northeastern Baltimore County

At the same Board meeting in which the Pleasant Plains boundary study was approved, the Board denied a similar motion for a review of boundaries in the northeast. Because the State Senate failed to pass the Build to Learn Act, Baltimore County will not receive funding needed to construct two new schools in northeastern Baltimore County. The delay means that the new Rossville Boulevard elementary school will open no earlier than 2021 and the new Nottingham Middle School will open no earlier than 2022.

[Councilman Marks and School Board member Julie Henn will hold a town hall meeting](#) on Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Perry Hall Family Worship Center (5125 East Joppa Road) to discuss next steps in the process.

## SOLAR PANELS BLOCKED AT GREEN AREAS OF HONEYGO, MOUNT VISTA PARKS

[Baltimore County is soliciting bids to add solar panels to various public properties](#). Councilman Marks has obtained a commitment that solar panels will not be placed at Mount Vista and Honeygo Run Parks. Under the previous administration, a contract was advanced to allow a private utility to construct a solar farm at the park in Kingsville.

